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10 JUN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT: Comments on Scientific Intelligence Committee
Draft of NIE 11-6-59, "Soviet Science
and Technology" 3 June 1959

1. Representatives of this Office have contributed to the subject estimate and have participated in the discussions leading to the preparation of SIC draft. However, we believe that the numerical presentations and the language of paragraphs 15 and 16 are misleading with respect to Soviet trained manpower in engineering and agriculture. The principal reasons for our belief relate first to questions of the comparability of data, and second to differences in the philosophy of management in the US and the USSR.

2. With respect to the data, the Soviet statistics on engineering manpower refer to the number of engineering graduates employed in the economy irrespective of positions they occupy. On the US side, the engineering manpower number is an estimate, based on 1950 and 1953 information, of the number of engineering graduates working as engineers. As we understand the data, this would mean that an engineer working in a US firm as a salesmanager would not be included whereas his Soviet counterpart working in a sales directorate would be counted.

3. Another data problem arises from lumping technologists with scientists and making overall comparisons of the scientific and technical totals. The tables themselves would benefit, in our opinion, from a clear delineation of persons who are scientists as opposed to those who are technologists (engineering and agricultural personnel).

4. The fact that the Soviet Union has more engineering graduates than the US is granted. However, this fact stems largely from a difference in the philosophy of management. There is no counterpart in the Soviet Union for our undergraduate and graduate schools of business administration, which have been turning out

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thousands of personnel trained to fill management positions which are filled by engineers in the Soviet Union. Specifically, in the Soviet Union, engineers are used as supply and procurement officers, plant managers and their deputies and assistants, and in a wide variety of administrative positions in the departments of regional economic councils, ministries and central staff organizations. Moreover, Soviet engineers are used extensively as foremen, whereas the US fills these positions with personnel who do not have college training but who may have extensive technical training. By US standards then, the Soviet utilization of engineers is quite inefficient.

5. We are attaching suggested language changes for paragraphs 15 and 16. If you agree to the modification of these paragraphs then paragraph 10 of the conclusion will require similar modification.

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Deputy Assistant Director
Research and Reports

Enclosure:
language changes for paragraphs
15 and 16

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Och/E/RR: (9 June 1959)

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